



COLLEGE REPORT

By ROBERT M. BERSI
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They are dreamers who believe that our colleges and universities function apart from the shifting influences of our national life. We cannot talk about who "controls" the campus or governs its direction without considering the balance of power between interest groups represented in legislatures, alumni, and, most importantly, boards of trustees. No one interest group ever controls the university permanently. Control shifts subtly under the pressure of a continuous conflict of competing ideas about social order.

Some people appear to care little for this scheme of academic government. They maintain that a university should be a company of self-governing scholars unchecked by society at large. In particular, they deplore the existence of boards of trustees and of college and university presidents; and they point to the medieval university, the pre-Nazi German university, and the historic British universities as the models that we should follow.

SOME YEARS ago, a group of University of California and Stanford University professors illustrated this sentiment with the declaration that "the true university is preeminently a company of scholars" and that "professors are not hired men to execute policies determined by others." More recently we hear the term "community of scholars" used in place of "company of scholars." The meaning is the same.

Several observations must be made about this point of view. First, an objective study of European universities makes it clear that, although they were able to operate independently for long periods, public authority eventually exerted itself and took away their assumed independence.

For example, the British government left Oxford and Cambridge free to govern themselves from the middle of the 17th Century to the middle of the 19th, a fact which led them to believe that they existed entirely independent of public control. The university reforms acts passed by Parliament in 1854 and 1876, however, relieved them of this misconception; and although both universities continue to enjoy large self-governing powers, they are no longer

"independent communities of scholars."

AS FOR THE German universities, instances abound in which the civil authorities exerted their power in every period of stress throughout the 19th Century and up until the Nazis took over. In short, historic and European citations do not support those who argue that universities should be independent entities governed entirely by professors.

In the second place, the increasing power of faculties in academic government belies the allegation that professors are "hired men" who must "execute policies determined by others." For three-quarters of a century American college and university professors have been acquiring ever-increasing rights of participation in the determination of institutional policies. These rights may be considerably less complete than most of them would like, but they are great indeed compared with those of a century ago; and they continue to increase.

TO IGNORE the trend and sneer at the legal governors of colleges and universities is no way to further it. Boards of trustees, like wooden boards, may sometimes be narrow, thick, and even warped; but they are instrumentalities of the American democratic way of life and must be so recognized.

This observation leads to the third point, namely, that however praise-worthy European systems of academic government may be, we are committed to the American system; and we cannot break with our history. This history leaves no question that the American people will not permit professors to be independent of society as a whole.

To paraphrase a statement of Clemenceau's about war and generals, the American people consider colleges and universities to be far too important to leave them entirely in the hands of professors or of any other group. The government of colleges and universities increasingly becomes a cooperative enterprise in which an expanding number of interest groups participate. Professors are only one of these groups—a primary group, but only one among several.

HAHN REPORTS

Lifeguards Win Official Praise

By KENNETH HAHN
County Supervisor

Unlike many services of county government, you only think of a lifeguard when you need him.

And when you or a member of your family need him, it's his job to be there, quickly and competently.

In dangerous water, which so often perils our beautiful beaches, the courage and level-headed action of the lifeguard are often the difference between life and tragedy.

The Los Angeles County's Lifeguard Service is the best in the world. Its record proves it.

THE YOUNG men who serve at our beaches under "Bud" Stevenson are dedicated and superbly trained.

Recently, I inspected County Beach Lifeguard Headquarters in Redondo Beach and talked with the

men who compose this elite corps.

They handle situations each day which qualify them as heroes.

In the last 10 years, a total of 207,444,000 persons have visited Los Angeles County beaches.

COUNTY lifeguards have rescued 49,741 from the water! There have been only six drownings at county beaches.

Also, they have administered first aid to 43,520 persons and found 12,439 lost children.

I feel so strongly about the ability of the county lifeguards that I initiated a study into the possibility of unifying the beach lifeguard services of the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Long Beach with the county.

IN MY opinion, this would lead to economies and better service for the taxpayers.

Also, I have through the years advocated improvements to the equipment and facilities of the beach lifeguards.

When it comes to services that protect the public—the lifeguards, firemen and Sheriff—there is no room to cut corners.

Dancers Appear

The Basque Festival Dancers will appear at El Camino College Friday, Nov. 22, for a one-night performance. Tickets for the show are priced at \$3, \$2.25, and \$1.50.

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New hi-fashion styles for wear indoors and out! Hand laced for perfect fit with cushioned insoles, heels. Leather-look vinyl, fabrics in Fall colors. 5 to 9 1/2.

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Men's No-Iron Shirts \$2.98

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Men's Cotton Corduroy Jackets \$12.97

Discount Price Finger-tip length Cotton corduroy shell with laminated rayon quilted lining. Knit collar and cuffs. Oversize pockets. Choice of Fall colors. Sizes S-M-L-XL.

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• Credenza Base • Glass Front Hutch • Bookcase/Desk. Modernize your home with these smart Per-vaneer units that provide ample space for books, linens, records. Credenza—27" high, 14 1/2" deep! Hutch—33" high, 11" deep! Bookcase/Desk—35" high, 11" deep. All 32" wide, finished in Walnut.

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